

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) A removable tub grip for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall, a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;

a ratcheting mechanism; and

a handle assembly,

wherein at least a portion of said handle assembly is operable to be positioned above and between said first side and said second side of said exposed tub wall when said first arm assembly contacts said first side and said second arm assembly contacts said second side;

wherein said first arm assembly is coupled to said second arm assembly by said ratcheting mechanism;

wherein said first arm assembly is fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism;

wherein said second arm assembly is operable to move toward said first arm assembly via said ratcheting mechanism; and

wherein said ratcheting mechanism restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly; and

~~wherein said handle assembly includes a first handle and a second handle.~~

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 34, further comprising a clamp assembly,

wherein said clamp assembly is connected to said ratcheting mechanism, and

wherein actuating said clamp assembly causes said second arm assembly to move toward said first arm assembly.

38. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 37, wherein said clamp assembly is operable to convert a rotational force into an increased linear force for moving said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly.

39. (currently amended) ~~The removable tub grip of claim 37;~~ A removable tub grip for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall, a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;

a ratcheting mechanism;

a handle assembly; and

a clamp assembly,

wherein said first arm assembly is coupled to said second arm assembly by said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein said first arm assembly is fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein said second arm assembly is operable to move toward said first arm assembly via said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein said ratcheting mechanism restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly,

wherein said clamp assembly is connected to said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein actuating said clamp assembly causes said second arm assembly to move toward said first arm assembly,

wherein said clamp assembly includes a lever coupled to a cam in contact with said first arm assembly,

wherein said cam is configured to redirect and multiply a force placed on a portion of said lever distal to said cam to rotate said lever, and

wherein said force used to actuate said lever is redirected to displace said second arm assembly in a linear manner toward said first arm assembly.

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) ~~The removable tub grip of claim 34,~~ A removable tub grip for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall, a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;

a ratcheting mechanism; and

a handle assembly,

wherein said first arm assembly is coupled to said second arm assembly by said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein said first arm assembly is fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein said second arm assembly is operable to move toward said first arm assembly via said ratcheting mechanism,

wherein said ratcheting mechanism restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly,

wherein said handle assembly includes a first handle and a second handle,

wherein said first handle is located above and connects a first pair of vertical posts, and

wherein said second handle is located above and connects a second pair of vertical posts.

45. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 34, wherein said ratcheting mechanism includes a locking member and a locking plate,

wherein said locking member includes a plurality of teeth, and

wherein said locking plate selectively engages said teeth to restrict movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allow movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly.

46. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, wherein a length of said locking member is substantially greater than a height of said locking member.

47. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, wherein a length of said locking member is substantially greater than a width of said locking member.

48. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, wherein a height of said locking member is greater than a width of said locking member.

49. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, further comprising a spring mounted on said locking member and in communication with said locking plate,
wherein said spring urges said locking plate toward said first arm assembly.

50. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, further comprising a locking plate release mechanism,
wherein said locking plate release mechanism is operable to disengage said locking plate from said teeth to allow movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly.

51. (currently amended) ~~A~~The removable tub grip of claim 50, for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

~~a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall, a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;~~

~~a ratcheting mechanism; and~~

~~a locking plate release mechanism;~~

~~wherein said first arm assembly is coupled to said second arm assembly by said ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said first arm assembly is fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said second arm assembly is operable to move toward said first arm assembly via said ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said ratcheting mechanism restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly;~~

~~wherein said ratcheting mechanism includes a locking member and a locking plate;~~

~~wherein said locking member includes a plurality of teeth;~~

~~wherein said locking plate selectively engages said teeth to restrict movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allow movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly;~~

~~wherein said locking plate release mechanism comprises:~~

~~a release lever; and~~

~~a guide wire having a first end portion and a second end portion,~~

wherein said first end portion is coupled to said release lever and said second end portion is coupled to a hook extending from said locking plate;² and

~~wherein said locking plate release mechanism is operable to disengage said locking plate from said teeth to allow movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly.~~

52. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, wherein said plurality of teeth form a first row of teeth on a top surface of said locking member and a second row of teeth on a bottom surface of said locking member.

53. (currently amended) ~~A~~The removable tub grip of claim 52, for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

~~a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall, a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall, and~~

~~a ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said first arm assembly is coupled to said second arm assembly by said ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said first arm assembly is fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said second arm assembly is operable to move toward said first arm assembly via said ratcheting mechanism;~~

~~wherein said ratcheting mechanism restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly;~~

~~wherein said ratcheting mechanism includes a locking member and a locking plate;~~

~~wherein said locking member includes a plurality of teeth;~~

~~wherein said locking plate selectively engages said teeth to restrict movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allow movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly;~~

~~wherein said plurality of teeth form a first row of teeth on a top surface of said locking member and a second row of teeth on a bottom surface of said locking member;~~

wherein said locking plate has an aperture through which said locking member extends;₁

wherein an upper flat portion of said aperture is operable to engage said first row of teeth;₂ and

wherein a lower flat portion of said aperture is operable to engage said second row of teeth.

54. (canceled)

55. (canceled)

56. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 45, wherein each of said plurality of teeth is a tooth having a first edge portion and a second edge portion.

57. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 56, wherein said tooth has a characteristic angle defined by an intersection of said first edge portion and said second edge portion at a peak of said tooth.

58. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 57, wherein said characteristic angle is 100 degrees.

59. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 56, wherein said tooth has a characteristic angle defined as an angle between said first edge portion and a line passing through a valley where two adjacent teeth meet.

60. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 59, wherein said characteristic angle is 70 degrees.

61. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 56, wherein said tooth has a characteristic angle defined as an angle between said second edge portion and a line passing through a valley where two adjacent teeth meet.

62. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 61, wherein said characteristic angle is 30 degrees.

63. (currently amended) A removable tub grip for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

 a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall;

 a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;

 means for ratcheting said second arm assembly relative to said first arm assembly; and

a handle assembly,

~~wherein said handle assembly includes a first handle and a second handle.~~

wherein at least a portion of said handle assembly is operable to be positioned above and between said first side and said second side of said exposed tub wall when said first arm assembly contacts said first side and said second arm assembly contacts said second side.

64. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 63, wherein said means for ratcheting restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly.

65. (canceled)

66. (previously presented) The removable tub grip of claim 63, further comprising a first lever and a second lever,

wherein said first lever controls said means for ratcheting to cause said second arm assembly to move toward said first arm assembly, and

wherein said second lever controls said means for ratcheting to allow said second arm assembly to move away from said first arm assembly.

67. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 66, wherein said first lever is operable to convert a rotational force into an increased linear force for moving said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly.

68. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 66, wherein said first lever is coupled to a cam in contact with said first arm assembly,

wherein said cam is configured to redirect and multiply a force placed on a portion of said first lever distal to said cam to rotate said first lever, and

wherein said force used to actuate said first lever is redirected to displace said second arm assembly in a linear manner toward said first arm assembly.

69. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 63, wherein said means for ratcheting includes a locking member and a locking plate,

wherein said locking member includes a plurality of teeth, and

wherein said locking plate selectively engages said teeth to restrict movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allow movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly.

70. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 69, further comprising a spring mounted on said locking member and in communication with said locking plate,

wherein said spring urges said locking plate toward said first arm assembly.

71. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 69, further comprising a locking plate release mechanism,

wherein said locking plate release mechanism is operable to disengage said locking plate from said teeth to allow movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly.

72. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 71, wherein said locking plate release mechanism comprises:

a release lever; and

a guide wire having a first end portion and a second end portion,

wherein said first end portion is coupled to said release lever and said second end portion is coupled to a hook extending from said locking plate.

73. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 69, wherein said plurality of teeth form a first row of teeth on a top surface of said locking member and a second row of teeth on a bottom surface of said locking member.

74. (new) The removable tub grip of claim 73, wherein said locking plate has an aperture through which said locking member extends,

wherein an upper flat portion of said aperture is operable to engage said first row of teeth, and

wherein a lower flat portion of said aperture is operable to engage said second row of teeth.

75. (new) A removable tub grip for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall, a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;

a ratcheting mechanism; and

a handle assembly,

wherein said handle assembly is discrete and fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism;

wherein said first arm assembly is coupled to said second arm assembly by said ratcheting mechanism;

wherein said first arm assembly is fixed relative to said ratcheting mechanism;

wherein said second arm assembly is operable to move toward said first arm assembly via said ratcheting mechanism; and

wherein said ratcheting mechanism restricts movement of said second arm assembly away from said first arm assembly and allows movement of said second arm assembly toward said first arm assembly.

76. (new) A removable tub grip for mounting on an exposed wall of a bathtub, said tub grip comprising:

a first arm assembly for contacting a first side of said exposed tub wall;

a second arm assembly for contacting a second side of said exposed tub wall;

means for ratcheting said second arm assembly relative to said first arm assembly; and

a handle assembly,

wherein said handle assembly is discrete and fixed relative to said means for ratcheting.